

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 109 OF 2013

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Bentley, Montesi, Girard, Sokol, Wood and Frasier

EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION AND CONCERN OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION LAW AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO FORWARD A LETTER TO THE STATE LEGISLATORS EXPRESSING SUCH DISSATISFACTION AND CONCERN, CONTINGENT UPON REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, a series of proposed amendments to the New York State Election Law have been introduced by the Senate and Assembly, and

WHEREAS, Legislative Bills A.689/S.1461 is an act to amend the Election Law in relation to early voting , and Legislative Bills A.172/S.609 is an act to amend the Election Law in relation to allowing for polling place voter registration for any qualified person who is not registered to vote, and

WHEREAS, the proposed early voting amendment would require voting be allowed fourteen (14) days before a general election and seven (7) days before a primary election at five (5) polling places in each County from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. each day including weekends, and

WHEREAS, as proposed Legislative Bills A.172/S.609 provides for same-day registration of voters in the polling place during the hours that the polling location is open for voting, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated the proposed amendments will result in additional compliance costs of \$100,000 to Warren County, and it will be difficult to find qualified inspectors to work the additional hours and days, and

WHEREAS, the amendments to the Election Law as proposed do not include any financial assistance to Counties to cover these additional costs, and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments are another example of an unfunded mandate imposed by the State Legislature upon Counties where the State Legislature enacts legislation which is burdensome to

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Counties and is devoid of any financial assistance, and

WHEREAS, if the perceived need for early voting amendments is based solely on the impact that Superstorm Sandy had on voter turnout in the 2012 General Election, then all counties with the exception of New York City should be afforded the right to opt-out of the new requirements if their voter history turnout is high enough, and

WHEREAS, depending on the election, Warren County has a historical voter turnout rate of 65% - 80%, and this fact is simply not considered in the proposed amendments, and

WHEREAS, as an alternative to the proposed amendments to the Election Law, the Warren County Election Commissioners have suggested a “no-fault” reason application for a permanent change to absentee voting applications, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to forward a letter to our State Legislators expressing dissatisfaction and concern with the aforementioned Election Law amendments, contingent upon review and approval of such letter by the Commissioners of the Board of Elections and the County Attorney, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, be and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Association of Counties; the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little; and Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec.